



JOLENE GUZMAN/Itemizer-Observer

Roger Shafer surrounds himself and his students with reminders of United States history and patriotism.

VFW honors Dallas teacher

Patriotic LaCreole educator earns statewide recognition

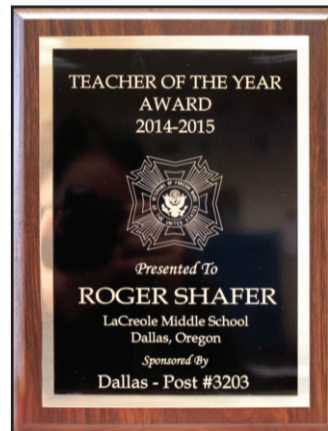
By Jolene Guzman
The Itemizer-Observer

DALLAS — The walls of Roger Shafer's classroom at LaCreole Middle School are a testament to his love of his country and its history.

He has multiple versions of the American flag hanging from the walls and windows. Behind his desk are framed, poster-sized copies of the U.S. Constitution, Bill of Rights and the Declaration of Independence.

Almost every inch of wall space in his room is covered in historical documents, paintings or pictures.

No surprise, Shafer is a U.S. history teacher. He is also a veteran, giving him a unique perspective on what



it took to earn the rights he teaches when studying the American Revolution — and the responsibility each citizen has in keeping them.

"Our rights are so precious and the key to a successful democracy is the citizens,"

he said, "so we have to have an educated electorate to be a great country. It's such an honor to teach kids that.

"I hope when they (students) leave my class that they have an understanding that freedom isn't free and that they realize how we got to this point," he continued. "If the citizens don't participate, the whole thing is in dire jeopardy."

For that passion and commitment to inspiring students to become informed citizens, Shafer was named the Veterans of Foreign Wars Middle School Teacher of the Year for Oregon.

The designation is given to one elementary, middle school and high school teacher in the state who teaches civics or his-

tory at least half-time. According to a description of the Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Teacher Award, "teachers who promote civic responsibility, flag etiquette and patriotism are prime candidates for this award."

Shafer fits into that perfectly.

"He served in our war on terror, leaving his wife and young son for over a year to protect the citizens of the United States from further harm," wrote Joyce Garland, a fellow history teacher at LaCreole. "When he returned he became a social studies teacher and now brings his passion for freedom to the lucky seventh-graders at our middle school."

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SCHOOL NOTES

OHES teacher is recipient of grant

DALLAS — Oakdale Heights Elementary School reading specialist Heather Anderson has received a grant through the Oregon Education Association's (OEA) Center for Great Public Schools and the Chintimini UniServ Council to purchase reading materials.

The 2014-15 Promising Practice's grant from OEA provides funding for projects and activities outside of classroom budgets. The Chintimini UniServ Council matched grant funds dollar for dollar.

Anderson will use the grant to buy literature and non-fiction texts of interest to young students to encourage them to read on their own.

Anderson said independent reading "helps increase students' reading comprehension, vocabulary growth, spelling facility, understanding of grammar, and knowledge of the world."

Anderson was one of nine educators in Polk, Benton and Lincoln counties to receive a grant.

MVCA to host open house Tuesday

MONMOUTH — Mid-Valley Christian Academy is hosting its annual Spring Open House on Tuesday from 6 to 7:30 p.m.

Families and their children are welcome to attend the event to learn more about the nationally accredited school, its educational offerings and activity programs, meet school staff, enjoy a "kid-friendly" free family meal and tour the school.

The school is located at 1483 16th St. N., at the corner of 16th Street and Hoffman Road in Monmouth.

For more information: 503-838-2818; www.midvalca.org.

GED classes set in Independence

INDEPENDENCE — Chemeketa Community College's Dallas Center will begin offering new GED preparation classes in Independence starting spring term.

The classes will be a part of the new Chemeketa Dallas Adult Learning Center at the Henry Hill Community Center, 750 S. Fifth St., Independence. Spring term starts March 30. Classes will be held in the evenings and available in English and Spanish. English GED preparation classes will also be offered in the mornings at the Dallas Center.

Students interested in enrolling in either program can call the Chemeketa Dallas Center at 503-623-5567 to schedule an intake and get started in classes.

To see all of the Chemeketa Dallas Center spring course offerings, visit the center's website at www.go.chemeketa.edu/dallas.

ACADEMIC HONORS

SC honor roll includes Polk students

ADAIR VILLAGE — Polk County students listed on the second quarter 2014-15 honor roll at Santiam Christian Schools in Adair Village include:

Seniors — 4.0 GPA: Justin Aldrich, Olivia Ledebor, Jacob Manzi and Liam Perry. **3.5 and above:** Heather Bellingier, Michael Chung, Caitlin Fettig, Katy Paratore, Moriah Sutter and Adam Wiens.

Juniors — 4.0: Jocelyn Porath. **3.5 and above:** Joaquin Guerrero-Rodriguez and Kevin Sheng.

Sophomores — 4.0: Daniela Boehm, Peggy Liang, Mikayla Manzi, Katie Richert and Alexandra Watson. **3.5 and above:** Marta Cercos Gonzalez, Makenna Setniker, August Thornton and Jeremiah Tindle.

Freshmen — 4.0: Kaylee Breyman, Laura Guariglia-Castro, Grace Moseman, Sebastian Perfecto, Rebeka Preston and Zachary Watson. **3.5 and above:** Samuel Barton, Shelby Myrick-Duckett and Kyle Paratore.

Eighth Grade — 4.0: Tony Li, Jason Manzi, Winn Miller, Isabel Montoya, Abby Riedlinger and Cole Setniker.

Seventh Grade — 4.0: Ansley Beam. **3.5 and above:** Olivia Bellingier-Verbits, Lily Hardy and Amanda Preston.

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Educators still without a contract

Perrydale teachers, district remain at an impasse over agreement

By Jolene Guzman
The Itemizer-Observer

PERRYDALE — After more than a year of on-and-off negotiations, Perrydale School District's board and teachers still haven't struck a deal on a contract for the current academic year.

Since a Dec. 9 meeting with a mediator, the two sides



Deters

said that a month ago the board sent an email inquiring

whether the association would be interested in continuing to talk with a new mediator.

No dates have been set for further mediation.

"It has been over a year since we started this process," Deters said. "I believe that many community members, including parents, are not aware that we are still in negotiations."

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"It has been over a year since we started this process," Deters said. "I believe that many community members, including parents, are not aware that we are still in negotiations."

That may change soon, though, according to the district's lawyer, Rebekah Jacobson. She said Monday the district is trying to schedule dates through the Oregon Employment Relations Board for April.

She said the delay to this point was due to the board considering whether it would withdraw its "final offer," made in the last mediation session in December. Jacobson said it appears the board is ready to talk more.

"They are going to engage in additional negotiations," she said.

The board and the associ-

ation began meeting in early 2014 to negotiate a new contract. Neither outgoing superintendent Robin Stout nor new Perrydale Superintendent Eric Milburn were involved in negotiations.

The next several months produced a stalemate on issues including salary, insurance benefits, grievance procedures, how "immediate family" is defined as it relates to bereavement leave, eliminating bereavement leave altogether, and critical illness leave.

So far, the district and association have met twice in mediation, but have been in separate rooms while the mediator moved back and forth between them. Deters said that has been frustrating for teachers, who would prefer face-to-face meetings.

Jacobson said that is the typical format of mediation, but the board is considering meeting in the same room once mediation resumes in April.

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